

REMARKS


Further to the preliminary amendment filed on March 31, 2004, Applicants cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 10-15. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of this amendment.

The gist of the present invention is to inject mRNA at a substantially identical depth into a cytoplasm of each of a plurality of amphibian oocytes. By injecting mRNA at a substantially identical depth into the plurality of amphibian oocytes (p. 10, lines 8-9), it becomes possible to express a protein at substantially identical conditions in the amphibian oocytes into which mRNA is injected (p. 9, lines 25-27). This enables screening a ligand (p. 10, line 25) or antigen accurately. If the injection depth changes, the expression efficiency for obtaining a peptide changes depending on which amphibian oocytes are used. The electric response of the oocytes to a sample varies widely such that randomly injecting mRNA into amphibian oocytes can not obtain an accurate result of screening. Therefore, it is very important to inject mRNA at a substantially identical depth into the amphibian oocytes for conducting an accurate screening.

On the other hand, none of the references cited in the parent application No. 09/666,615 teaches or suggests injecting mRNA into a plurality of amphibian oocytes at a substantially identical depth such that they can not conduct such an accurate screening as the invention. The article by Zwart et al. (1995, J. Neuroscience, 15(3): 2168-2178 merely teaches the nuclei injection, but not the cytoplasmic injection of the present invention.

In view of the above amendments and Applicants' comments stated herein, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,


Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
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